

# Sixty-Eighth Annual Report of the Visitors of the University Observatory for 1942.

## BOARD OF VISITORS, 1943.

- THE VICE-CHANCELLOR (SIR DAVID ROSS, M.A., Provost of Oriel).
- THE SENIOR PROCTOR (A. Ewert, M.A., Fellow of Trinity).
- THE JUNIOR PROCTOR (L. B. Cross, M.A., Fellow of Jesus).
- F. HOMES DUDDEN, D.D., Master of Pembroke (*Chairman*).
- THE ASTRONOMER ROYAL (H. Spencer Jones, M.A., D.Sc., F.R.S.).
- THE DIRECTOR OF THE CAMBRIDGE OBSERVATORY (Sir A. S. Eddington, O.M., Hon. D.Sc., F.R.S.).
- THE RADCLIFFE OBSERVER (or a person deputed by the Radcliffe Trustees), Professor H. C. Plummer, M.A., F.R.S.
- E. A. MILNE, M.A., D.Sc., F.R.S., Fellow of Wadham.
- G. M. B. DOBSON, M.A., D.Sc., F.R.S., Fellow of Merton.
- Sir J. S. E. TOWNSEND, M.A., F.R.S., Fellow of New College.
- LORD CHERWELL, M.A., F.R.S., Fellow of Wadham and Student of Christ Church.

Until M.T., 1945.

Until M.T., 1950.

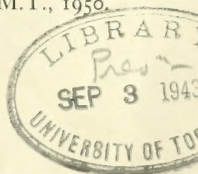
This report refers to the calendar year 1942.

### I. Staff and Work.

Apart from Mr. S. C. Cook, who resigned in July on accepting another appointment, the war-time staff of the Observatory remains unchanged. Dr. M. G. Adam continues as Acting Director in addition to carrying on research for the Admiralty. Dr. D. S. Evans, apart from his editorship of the *Observatory Magazine*, gives all his time to research with Dr. Mendelsohn of the Clarendon Laboratory on applications of physics to medicine. Miss E. F. Bellamy continues her work on the preparation and publication of the International Seismological Summary. In spite of the loss of the computational services of Mr. Cook, the fourth quarter of the Summary for the year 1934 has been printed and distributed, while the calculation of epicentres and residuals for the first quarter of the following year is well in hand.

[P. T. O.]

Physical &  
Applied Sci.  
Serials





# Sixty-Eighth Annual Report of the Visitors of the University Observatory for 1942.

## BOARD OF VISITORS, 1943.

- THE VICE-CHANCELLOR (SIR DAVID ROSS, M.A., Provost of  
Oriel).
- THE SENIOR PROCTOR (A. Ewert, M.A., Fellow of Trinity).
- THE JUNIOR PROCTOR (L. B. Cross, M.A., Fellow of Jesus).
- F. HOMES DUDDEN, D.D., Master of Pembroke (*Chairman*).
- THE ASTRONOMER ROYAL (H. Spencer Jones, M.A., D.Sc.,  
F.R.S.).
- THE DIRECTOR OF THE CAMBRIDGE OBSERVATORY (Sir A. S.  
Eddington, O.M., Hon. D.Sc., F.R.S.).
- THE RADCLIFFE OBSERVER (or a person deputed by the Radcliffe  
Trustees), Professor H. C. Plummer, M.A., F.R.S.
- E. A. MILNE, M.A., D.Sc., F.R.S., Fellow  
of Wadham.
- G. M. B. DOBSON, M.A., D.Sc., F.R.S.,  
Fellow of Merton.
- Sir J. S. E. TOWNSEND, M.A., F.R.S., Fel-  
low of New College.
- LORD CHERWELL, M.A., F.R.S., Fellow of  
Wadham and Student of Christ  
Church.

} Until M.T., 1945.

} Until M.T., 1950.

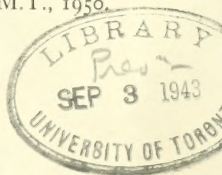
This report refers to the calendar year 1942.

### I. Staff and Work.

Apart from Mr. S. C. Cook, who resigned in July on accept-  
ing another appointment, the war-time staff of the Observatory  
remains unchanged. Dr. M. G. Adam continues as Acting  
Director in addition to carrying on research for the Admiralty.  
Dr. D. S. Evans, apart from his editorship of the *Observatory  
Magazine*, gives all his time to research with Dr. Mendelssohn  
of the Clarendon Laboratory on applications of physics to  
medicine. Miss E. F. Bellamy continues her work on the pre-  
paration and publication of the International Seismological  
Summary. In spite of the loss of the computational services of  
Mr. Cook, the fourth quarter of the Summary for the year 1934  
has been printed and distributed, while the calculation of  
epicentres and residuals for the first quarter of the following  
year is well in hand.

[P. T. O.]

Physical &  
Applied Sci.  
Serials



## II. Instruction.

Commencing in the Michaelmas Term Dr. Adam and Dr. Evans undertook to give a six months' course of three weekly lectures, with practical work, on Astronomy for R.A.F. cadets. The practical work involved some instruction in the Electrical Laboratory on optics (with the valuable assistance of Mr. T. H. Fallows), and for the rest consisted of observations with marine and air sextants, as well as some instruction in the use of the 12-inch telescope.

The Observatory was regularly open on Saturday evenings during Hilary Term. On account of the pressure of other work it was impossible to continue this arrangement during the Michaelmas Term, though some visitors were enabled to see through the telescope.

## III. Equipment.

It has proved possible, during the year under review, to make arrangements for additional optical work to be done on the solar telescope and spectroscope. Exhaustive tests with the former instrument had revealed the presence of astigmatism, and this had been traced to curvature of the surfaces of the two 16-inch flats which introduce the solar light into the telescope proper. These two mirrors have been tested by Mr. F. J. Hargreaves who has confirmed the existence of curvature; he has in addition refigured the surfaces so that they are now flat within the usual tolerances. At the same time, through the co-operation of Mr. F. Twyman of Adam Hilger & Co., Ltd., the three large prisms of the spectroscope, considerable portions of which had previously to be masked off on account of focal variations, have been tested on the new large Hilger Interferometer, and as the pressure of more urgent work permits are being slowly touched up. There is therefore every reason to hope that, on the termination of the war, these two instruments will be in a condition, as they have never been before, for work requiring the most critical definition.

## IV. Miscellaneous.

After over two and a half years in Oxford, the Royal Astronomical Society removed its offices in May from the Observatory back to Burlington House.

H. H. PLASKETT.

UNIVERSITY OBSERVATORY,  
OXFORD.

20 April 1943.